

Chicken Breeds Name: _____

Reading for Information Activity.

Use the information on the CRC Poster, **Chicken Breeds in Australia**, to answer the following questions.



1. What are the two major classifications of chickens?

a. _____ b. _____

2. Explain the differences in the feathers of the two main breed types.

3. There are bantams that have been developed as _____ types of large breeds and those that are _____ or unique breeds.

4. Commercial breeds have been developed to optimise either _____ or _____ production. Name the three main breeds in each group.

Group 1 _____

Group 2 _____

5. Write three features of both layer hens and broilers.

Layer hens _____

Broilers _____

6. Traditionally game birds were bred for _____.

7. Cock fighting is illegal in many countries now, so why do people keep game fowl?

8. **Rare breeds:** match the description with the breed.

Houdan

Araucana

Frizzle

Cochin

Hamburgh

blue shelled eggs,
fast growers,
odd looking

lay many small, white eggs,
sometimes called Everlayer,
active and flighty, good flyers

red eyes,
outward curling feathers,
gentle nature

enormous amounts of feathers,
calm, good pets,
heavily feathered legs means
they require short grassed areas,
originated in China

five toes on each foot,
V-shaped comb divided into
two parts like butterfly wings,
calm, placid nature

9. Two breeds, the _____ and the _____ have feathered legs.

10. Which two breeds are obviously bred in Australia? _____

11. a. Name two breeds suitable for cold climates. _____

b. Name two breeds suitable for warm climates. _____

12. Name two crested breeds. _____

13. Silkies are popular with adults and children as pet birds. Give reasons for this.

14. If you were setting up your own backyard chicken pen with six hens (enough for eggs for four people), which hens would you choose? _____

15. Give at least three reasons why a particular breed appeals to you. You can have a mix of breeds. _____

16. On the map of the world, put the number on the country these birds came from originally. Use the information on the poster for this task.

- 1.** Belgian d’Uccle, **2.** Cochin, **3.** Australorp, **4.** Ancona, **5.** Orpington,
6. Houdan, **7.** Polish, **8.** Indian Game, **9.** Malay Game, **10.** Old English Game



A Brief History of Egg Production

The first domestic fowl were brought to Australia onboard the First Fleet in 1788. Over a period of years, the original flock of chickens, turkeys, geese, and ducks increased in number. It wasn't long before people in towns and on farms were keeping their own chickens as they provided eggs, feathers and meat. Ducks, turkeys and geese were also kept. In time, guinea fowl and pheasants were introduced.

As time went by a commercial egg farming industry developed. Until the 1950's, chickens were kept in sheds and had access to a yard with high fences that kept foxes out. Flock numbers ranged from hundreds to a few thousand. In cities and towns it was convenient to buy eggs at the local shop and store them in the fridge. Keeping chickens in backyards became less popular. Local councils introduced regulations to set limits on the number of chickens that could be kept and the distance a pen could be from neighbouring dwellings. In country areas chicken yards remained popular.

In the 1960's, layer cages were introduced and the number of commercial chicken farms increased. In the late 1970's, sheds that could house up to 100,000 layer hens in multiple layers of cages were common. Eventually some farms housed 500,000 hens in cages. New developments and changing attitudes to how animals were treated caused people to consider changes to the way they farmed. As a result, in 2001 regulations were introduced to set limits on the number of hens in each cage. Today, cage egg production remains the most popular form of production. Free-range and barn laid egg production methods are increasing in number as a response to consumer demand and producer preference. Concerns for the environment and sustainable production practices have also led to changes in the way that waste products are disposed of and disease is managed.

With an increasing interest in organic and home-grown food, keeping backyard chickens continues to be popular with many people. They are great for eating kitchen scraps and garden pests. Scratching among the fruit trees and vegetables they quickly find beetles, bugs and grubs to eat. Used straw from nest areas, mixed with their manure, can be used as garden mulch. To make sure they are getting all the necessary nutrients, they are also fed grain. With such an interesting variety of chicken breeds available, keeping chickens can be a worthwhile, enjoyable activity for the family.

Questions True or false.

There were no domestic fowl on the ships of the First Fleet.	true	false
The early settlers had no use for chickens or ducks.	true	false
In the 1950's commercial chicken farming was developing.	true	false
People have to protect their chickens from foxes.	true	false
Free-range eggs are not produced in Australia.	true	false
Local council regulations do have to be followed.	true	false
Health and welfare issues only apply to the health on humans.	true	false
Backyard growers can use manure from the chickens on their gardens.	true	false
Chickens are omnivores.	true	false
People can keep chickens in their backyard for egg production.	true	false

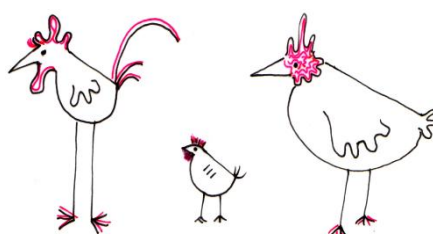
Follow up Activities.

1. Timeline. Create a timeline by first highlighting the dates or time references in the passage. Record the dates and relevant information in the table below.

Date	Development

2. Sustainability. Use a dictionary to find a definition of sustainability.

Discuss concerns about sustainability in the egg production industry and what producers are doing to minimise the impact on the environment. Organic egg production is one example. What other developments are taking place.



People Who Work in Egg Production

There are many people involved in each part of the egg production industry. Some are listed below. Can you match their title with their correct description?

The completed information could be used as **role play cards**.

Egg producer

Researcher

Veterinarian

Nutritionists

Market Managers

Breeders

Health and Welfare

Read carefully and decide where each description should be placed and then cut and paste into the correct box.

They work with the egg producers to identify and treat sick, diseased or injured hens. Sick hens are removed from the laying sheds until they recover. This is done to prevent the spread of any infectious diseases. Non-infectious diseases are diagnosed and remedies suggested. They may give vaccinations, medicines or suggest a special diet.

They are the people or corporations who own the egg production farms. They will be involved in cage, free-range or barn egg production. They provide the chickens with a safe, healthy environment, plenty of nutritious food, clean water and egg laying areas.

When the egg producer needs food for his chickens he knows that these people have developed chicken food that will keep his hens healthy and produce good quality eggs. The food contains a variety of grains plus vitamins and minerals. These people are constantly working on new products to improve the quality of the eggs we eat.

These people are involved in breeding chickens. Some chickens are bred especially for laying eggs. They are different from chickens that are bred for meat production. There are other people who breed chickens for showing. Their chickens are called Fancy Breeds and are shown at special shows. Many people enjoy that activity.

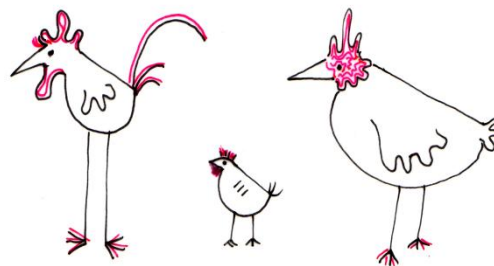
These people help to make sure all chickens are kept in conditions that are not stressful or harmful. Their aim is to ensure the hens are not treated cruelly and are able to do the things they like to do. They ensure that hens are housed according to regulations set by the Australian Egg Industry and ensure disease prevention is enforced.

It is the task of these people to undertake research to find answers to the problems of egg producers. They find ways to improve egg production techniques by developing better equipment for housing the hens, collecting the eggs, and grading and packaging processes.

When a product is sold to consumers, there is a need to advertise so that people are attracted to that product. Developing eye-catching cartons, catchy slogans and advertisements is the job of this group of people.

Designing and Making Activity

Teacher Information for designing and making a model of a chicken house with a fenced area for a small flock of chickens.



1. Brainstorming activity to list what is needed when you build chicken housing. The safety and comfort of the chickens has to be taken into account.

Consideration needs to be given to their protection from wind, rain, heat, cold, draughts and predators. They need space for walking, scratching, feeding, resting, roosting and laying eggs. Hen houses can be portable or fixed.

2. Make a list on the board, smart board or other. Check with the list given in *Poultry Agskills: A Practical Guide to Farm Skills*, p 31

3. If the project is to be used as an assessment task, let the children know what aspects will be assessed e.g. suitability of design, all requirements included, suitable materials used, realistic.

4. Decide on a size requirement depending on display space available in the classroom and time limit for the project.

5. Brainstorm a list of materials for making a model. Recycle whenever possible. If necessary suggest paddle pop sticks, balsa off cuts, strong cardboard, mesh (onion bags), string, bottle caps.

6. Discuss any other issues that arise.

7. Design the house on paper first. This is an important step of the project and could be done at school or as homework.

8. Collect materials and build the model either at home or in class.

9. Completed model and design are displayed, admired and assessed.

10. The students could:

- give an oral presentation explaining the features of their work,
- photograph their construction progress and write an explanation to be included with the completed model,
- photograph their work and display, with their explanation, in the school newsletter or on the school website.



Name _____ Date due. _____

Design and Make Activity

Instructions Design and make a chicken house with a fenced area for a small flock of chickens.

The safety and comfort of the chickens has to be taken into account.

Consideration needs to be given to their protection from wind, rain, heat, cold, draughts and predators. They need space for walking, scratching, feeding, roosting, resting and laying eggs. Hen houses can be portable or fixed.

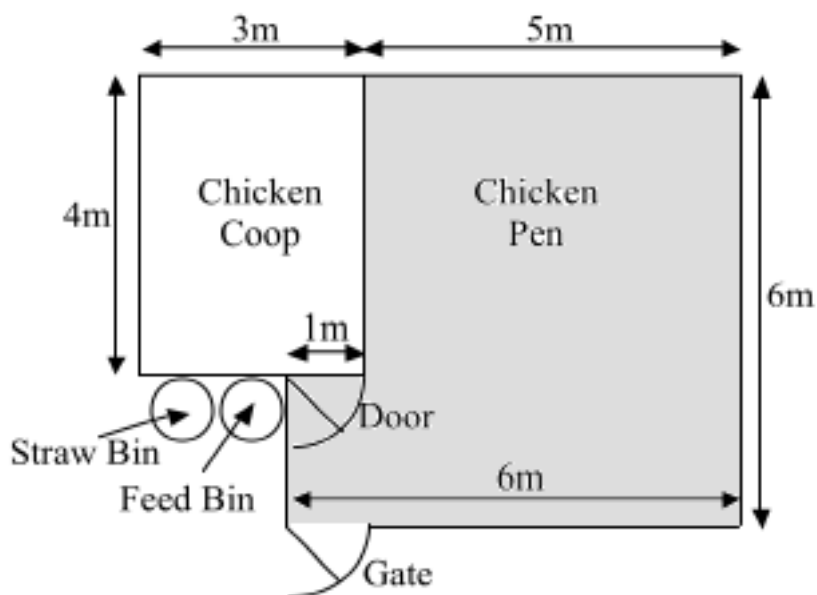
Refer to class list for requirements.

Prepare a design on paper first, and then make a small model using your design.

Include an explanation and photographs.

Chook House Mathematics Name: _____

The plan of a class chook pen and house is provided. Show your working on the back of the page or in your workbook.



1. What is the area of the chicken house? _____ m²
2. What is the area of the chicken pen? _____ m²
3. What is the perimeter of the chicken house? _____ m
4. What is the approximate diameter of the bins? _____ m
5. What is the length of the fence around the chicken pen? Do not include the chicken house wall. _____ m
6. Wire costs \$3.75 per metre. The cost of wire for the fence = \$_____
7. Posts cost \$12.80 each. If 10 posts are needed, the cost of posts = \$_____
8. If a gate costs \$45, the cost of materials for the fence = \$_____
9. Labour is \$27.50 per hour. If 7 hours are needed, the cost of labour = \$_____
10. The total cost of building the fence = \$_____
11. Nest boxes are 30cm wide, how many fit along the 3m wall of the house? _____
12. If 2 rows of boxes are provided at \$2.65 each, the cost of nest boxes = \$_____
13. If the cost of 2 roosts is \$5.60, what is the cost of each roost? \$_____
14. If 24 pullets were bought for \$84, what was the cost of each pullet? \$_____
15. The roosts are placed along the 4m wall. How many pullets roost per metre? _____
16. If 7 litres of fresh water is provided each day. Each pullet drinks about _____ ml
17. A 20kg bag of food is bought each week. Each pullet eats about _____ g a day?
18. If the cost of each bag is \$18, each pullet costs about \$_____ a month to feed.
19. On average 18 eggs are collected a day. If eggs are sold to the canteen for \$3 a dozen, what is the approximate income for the month? \$_____

Word Search Close

g	p	u	l	l	e	t	s	b	s	y	i	f
n	b	o	c	y	l	h	r	r	u	d	n	s
i	r	c	h	o	e	s	e	n	z	o	c	a
l	o	y	i	l	c	h	t	o	f	o	u	l
d	o	z	c	k	t	e	s	g	m	r	b	b
n	d	o	k	a	r	n	o	i	e	b	a	u
a	y	n	e	z	i	d	o	z	e	n	t	m
c	c	f	n	o	c	a	r	z	g	c	o	e
p	o	u	l	t	r	y	b	a	g	s	r	n
s	m	a	r	e	m	m	a	r	d	u	c	k
a	b	c	s	r	o	t	a	d	e	r	p	y

Colour the answers in the grid. Answers can go up, down diagonally, left and right. Write the answers in the sentences below.

- The _____ used its egg tooth to crack open the egg shell.
- There are a _____ eggs in a carton.
- The proud _____ strutted around the farmyard.
- The _____ farmer had chickens, ducks and geese.
- After a few weeks the young chicks develop _____ .
- The sick hen's _____ was flopping to the side.
- When a chicken sits on a batch of eggs it is said to be _____ .
- Chickens have grit in their _____ to help them digest food.
- The largest part of an egg is _____ .
- Foxes are major _____ for backyard and free-range chickens.
- The process of _____ involves using a light to see inside eggs.
- Farmers use an _____ to hatch large numbers of eggs.
- Young female chickens are called _____ .
- Who am I? I am a dog that guards a flock of chickens. Answer: _____
- An _____ fence is often used to help protect chickens from predators.